PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

THIRD ASSEMBLY.

FOURTH SESSION—1946|1121.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

Wednesday, the 24th July 1946|8th Karkatakam 1121.

The Sri Mulam Assembly met in the Legislative Chamber Public Offices, at 11 A. M. with Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., Dewan-President, in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls :-

1. Mr. S. John (*Surgeon-General*).
2. Mr. A. Narayanan Tampi (*Director of Public Instruction*)
3. Rajyasevapravina P. G. Narayanan Unnithan, (*Administrative Secretary to the Dewan.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Thorium.

51. *MR. K. A. MOHAMED (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have any information about the deposit of thorium in the State ; and

(*b*) whether thorium is exported from the State in any form?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No ; except with the special sanction of Government.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED : May I take it that thorium is exported from the State with the permission of Government ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : Yes, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS (*Kunnatnad cum Parur*) : How many permits have been issued up to now by the Government to export thorium ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : Only one permit was issued this year.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know the person to whom that permit was issued ?

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MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It cannot be disclosed.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): May I know whether any thorium is exported with the sanction of Government?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvella*): May I know why the name cannot be disclosed?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Because at this time the processing of thorium is considered to be a confidential matter.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know why the taking away of thorium from Travancore is considered to be a private affair?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. As I have already stated, Government have, without any knowledge of the properties of thorium or its importance in regard to its recent developments, been exporting monazite which contains certain thorium compounds. Now that new discoveries have been made and the importance and value of thorium are now ascertained, Government propose to export no monazite at all excepting under certain definite agreements with the British Government, negotiations in regard to which are at the present stage confidential. Honourable members may be sure that it is not the intention of the Travancore Government either to export monazite or thorium hereafter excepting for the purposes of what may be called acknowledged scientific importance. It is possible also that thorium alone might be segregated in the process of certain manufactures which are contemplated and likely to be started in a very short time. In other words, the position will be that monazite sands will be used for the purpose of extracting the thorium compounds and utilising the plants and taking advantage of the phosphatic contents of the monazite. The thorium portion of it will be kept in the hands of Government and will only be dealt with, with reference to national and international agreements and commitments.

MR. P. O THOMAS: May I know from the member whether our State received any monetary benefit by issuing that permit to that particular person whose name cannot be disclosed?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It does receive the royalty on it.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I know whether that person is a Travancorean or a non-Travancorean?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Nothing can be said about that.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether he is an Indian or a non-Indian?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Nothing more can be said about it.

MR. K. G KESAVAN NAIR (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): May I know when the sanction was given?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It was in 1121.

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MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the special consideration that persuaded Government to give this special permission?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The President has already explained the special circumstances under which this is being exported now.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know the quantity exported?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Nothing more can be said on the matter.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Honourable members, I am afraid, cannot be given any further information in this matter excepting that a great deal of monazite had been as a matter of fact, exported during the last 30 years not knowing that there was thorium in monazite. All these persons to whom these exports have been made could exploit thorium from the monazite. This particular consignment of which the Secretary is speaking has been exported for a specific purpose which is confidential in character. And therefore, no further information can be given about it.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know at least the rough amount that has been received by the Government for issuing that permit?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It has been said more than once that no more information in regard to this subject can be given.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): May I know whether this licence was issued after knowing the special use of thorium?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: No more information could be given. (*Laughter.*)

Thorium.

52. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any sources of thorium have been discovered in this State;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have entered into any consultation or agreement with any individuals or institutions or Governments regarding the exploitation of thorium resources in this State?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No agreements have been entered into with anybody.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any negotiations are being carried on or are under contemplation for the prospecting of.....

PRESIDENT: Nothing with reference to thorium. No negotiations are in progress. Such negotiations in the nature of things cannot be in progress, with private individuals for obvious reasons.

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